

EPA Environmental Education Grant Status Report

Grant Title: **Masonville Cove Environmental Education Programming**

Assistance #	<u>NE 96366001</u>
Report:	<u>Status Report</u>
Report Date	<u>10/30/20</u>
Budget/Project Period Dates	<u>7/1/20 – 9/30/20</u>
Grantee's Project Officer's Name	<u>Kathy Kirkland</u>
Grantee's Project Officer's Telephone #	<u>(215) 814-5176</u>

Federal Funding:	<u>\$ 60,000.00</u>
Federal Funds Expended:	<u>\$ 48,085.16</u>
Federal Funds Remaining:	<u>\$ 11,914.84</u>

GOALS/OBJECTIVES:

This project includes implementation/expansion of two key elements of the Masonville Cove Environmental Education Campus' (MCEEC) existing environmental education plan. Project goals are: 1) an advanced expansion of the School Leadership in Urban Runoff Reduction Project (SLURRP) in two Baltimore City Title I high schools, including in-school outreach, environmental-focused service learning, and helping students meet Maryland's Environmental Literacy standards, and 2) Community Engagement events and programs that involve residents of all ages in environmental literacy activities and hands-on stewardship. Program objectives are to increase participants' environmental knowledge of storm water runoff (causes, sources, and how to prevent it), provide an awareness of land use and local environmental issues, inspire behavioral change, reduce litter, and promote/increase environmental stewardship in the community.

PLANNED VS ACTUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACHIEVED ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS (MUST INCLUDE OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES):

School-based Programming

The grant program was designed to serve approximately 120 (9th-12th grade) students at two Title I Baltimore City high schools: Benjamin Franklin High School at Masonville Cove and New Era Academy. In June 2020, the program completed service to 180 students from these schools: three Biology classes from New Era Academy (approximately 120 students) and two Biology classes from Ben Franklin HS (approximately 60 students). During this reporting period, there were no school-based programs.

Subawards

Below is a summary of the subaward progress:

- **Baltimore Community ToolBank:** During this reporting period, the ToolBank completed their subaward work, submitted their report and receipts, and received their subaward payment.
- **ClearShark H2O:** This local non-profit continued to offer virtual experiences throughout this reporting period. They have produced a series of "Creative Nature" videos that have been shared on the Friends of Masonville Cove Facebook page and the ClearShark H2O

Facebook page. In September, ClearShark H2O began working to complete their subaward by reaching out to local Masonville schools and community locations, such as the library and recreation centers, to inquire about offering their virtual lessons to students.

- National Aquarium: During this reporting period, the National Aquarium engaged 23 students and 21 adults in nature exploratory programs through the Farring Bay Brook Recreation Center, Lakeland Recreation Center, and The Well (a local women's mentoring nonprofit). Activities included watershed studies, nature journaling, and mindfulness exercises such as meditation and yoga. All events were hosted in three local green spaces (Farring Bay Brook Park, Lakeland Park, and the Curtis Bay Recreation Center Park). The Aquarium will continue to host environmental education workshops/sessions for Masonville Cove Community Partners. Topics will range from watershed 101, native gardening 101, mindfulness in nature, mental health benefits of nature, biodiversity in urban spaces, and other environmental education topics of interest.

Community Engagement

On June 23 the Masonville Campus was reopened (outdoor spaces only) and normal hours were resumed (Monday-Friday 9 am to 4pm and Saturdays 9am to 1pm). A "virtual receptionist" allowed visitors to sign in before going out onto the property. During this reporting period, 366 individuals visited the campus for self-led activities, such as hiking, birding, and geocaching.

In August, the Masonville Cove Virtual Summer Science and Nature Program engaged 17 youth who received backpacks overflowing with art supplies, exploration guides, and 5 STEM activity kits based on the themes Water, Soil, Plants, Food Webs, and Living Organisms. Students participated in 2-hour virtual live sessions with educators where they performed experiments as a group, played games, and showcased/shared their crafts, data and conclusions.

The MCEEC resumed some planned campus activities in September. On 9/28/20, the Masonville partnership hosted Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day and Bioblitz, which was attended by over 90 people.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PROJECT PLAN UPDATE: N/A

HIGHLIGHTS:

A highlight of programming during this period was the Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day and Bioblitz on September 28, 2020. This was the first in-person community event hosted at the MCEEC since the campus reopened in June. More than 90 people attended the socially distanced event and COVID-19 safe event. A limited number of participants were required to register ahead of time, wear masks, have temperatures checked at registration, and remain 6' apart during their time on campus. Families could pick up a "bioblitz backpack" and hike around campus to identify and record plant and animal species. There were also many self-led family-friendly outdoor activities staged around the campus, as well as guided kayak tours of the cove.

POLLUTION PREVENTION ACCOMPLISHMENTS: N/A

EQUIPMENT: N/A

AREAS OF CONCERN - DEFICIENCIES/CORRECTIVE ACTION: N/A

RENEGOTIATED COMMITMENTS: N/A

SUGGESTIONS FOR EPA SUPPORT: N/A

RESOLUTION PLAN AND TIMING: N/A

ACTION ITEMS: N/A

TARGET COMPLETION DATE: N/A